video are put. It also allows such properties to be copied illicitly, in violation of the proprietors' copyrights.

The present invention seeks to redress these drawbacks by monitoring internet dissemination of various properties, and reporting the results back to their proprietors. If an unauthorized copy of a work is detected, appropriate steps can be taken to remove the copy, or compensate the proprietor accordingly.

In accordance with one method of the present invention, empirical data sets (e.g. audio, imagery, video) are downloaded from computer sites over the internet. Each of several data sets obtained in this fashion is automatically screened to identify the potential presence of steganographically encoded identification data. For these, the method discerns the encoded steganographically encoded identification data, if any, present in the data sets. A report is then generated, identifying the steganographically encoded empirical data sets, and the internet site from which each was downloaded.

The foregoing and other features and advantages of the present invention will be more readily apparent from the following detailed description, which proceeds with reference to the accompanying drawings.--

In the Claims:

Please add new claims as follows:

--20. The method of claim 2 wherein there is calibration data steganographically encoded within at least one empirical data set, said calibration data having one or more known properties facilitating identification thereof during the discerning step;

the method including identifying the calibration data within the empirical data set and using data obtained thereby to aid in discerning the identification data from the empirical data set;

wherein the empirical data set has been corrupted since being encoded, said corruption including a process selected from the group consisting of: misregistration and scaling of the empirical data set;

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